

Exhibit FF

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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ERIN GURSSLIN,

Plaintiff,

Civil Action No. 20-cv-6508

v.

THE CITY OF ROCHESTER, A MUNICIPAL ENTITY, POLICE  
OFFICER JEREMY NELLIST, POLICE OFFICER JOSHUA  
KELLY, COMMANDER FABIAN RIVERA, LIEUTENANT AARON  
SPRINGER,

Defendants.  
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Video-recorded Deposition Upon Oral Examination of:

Sergeant Ryan J. Romig

Location: Alliance Court Reporting, Inc.  
109 South Union Street, Suite 400  
Rochester, New York 14607

Date: February 17, 2023

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Reported By: CHRISTINE VIGNA  
  
Alliance Court Reporting, Inc.  
  
109 South Union Street, Suite 400  
  
Rochester, New York 14607

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A P P E A R A N C E S

Appearing Remotely on Behalf of Plaintiff:

Elliot D. Shields, Esq.

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Also Present:

Kenneth Williamson, Videographer  
Alliance Court Reporting, Inc.  
109 South Union Street, Suite 400  
Rochester, New York 14607

\* \* \*



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1 SERGEANT RYAN J. ROMIG - BY MR. SHIELDS

10:21:16 2 MS. JONES: Peachie Jones with the City of  
10:21:19 3 Rochester for all Defendants.

10:21:21 4 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Thank you, Counsel.

10:21:23 5 Our court reporter today is Christine  
10:21:25 6 Vigna, also with Alliance Court Reporting.

10:21:27 7 She will now swear in our witness.

8 SERGEANT RYAN J. ROMIG,

9 called herein as a witness, first being sworn,  
10 testified as follows:

11 EXAMINATION BY MR. SHIELDS:

10:21:46 12 Q. Good morning, Sergeant.

10:21:47 13 A. Good morning.

10:21:48 14 Q. My name is Elliot Shields. I represent  
10:21:51 15 the Plaintiff in this case whose dog was shot and  
10:21:55 16 killed by several RPD officers on September 6, 2018.  
10:22:00 17 I'm going to ask you some questions today.

10:22:03 18 First, I'm just going to go over some  
10:22:05 19 ground rules for the deposition. Will you tell me if  
10:22:10 20 you don't understand my question?

10:22:11 21 A. Yes.

10:22:13 22 Q. And will you tell me if you find my  
10:22:17 23 question to be confusing?

10:22:18 24 A. Yes.

10:22:19 25 Q. And will you tell me if I have assumed an



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1 SERGEANT RYAN J. ROMIG - BY MR. SHIELDS

11:36:46 2 about dog behavior?

11:36:47 3 A. I don't know if I'm conflating in my brain  
11:36:55 4 the in-service training or the academy. So I know  
11:36:58 5 that I've learned about dog behavior, but I don't know  
11:37:00 6 if -- if I'm remembering it from the in-service or the  
11:37:04 7 academy. I would imagine it's from the in-service  
11:37:07 8 which was much more recent.

11:37:09 9 Q. Okay. So since the academy -- and not  
11:37:13 10 talking about any SWAT training -- have you gotten  
11:37:19 11 any -- tell me all the training that you've received  
11:37:21 12 about interacting with dogs.

11:37:24 13 A. There was an off-the-road in-service. I  
11:37:28 14 don't remember what year it was. Somebody from either  
11:37:32 15 animal control or the Humane Society came in and they  
11:37:38 16 talked about how to identify an aggressive dog based  
11:37:43 17 on their body posture, their body language. They  
11:37:46 18 talked about, you know, some potential ways to try to  
11:37:55 19 keep the dog at bay. That's really the most I  
11:38:02 20 remember about it --

11:38:04 21 Q. Okay.

11:38:05 22 A. -- so --

11:38:06 23 Q. Was that training geared towards dealing  
11:38:12 24 with quote/unquote aggressive dogs?

11:38:14 25 A. The parts I remember of it had to do with



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SERGEANT RYAN J. ROMIG - BY MR. SHIELDS

identifying the body language of an animal, whether it be playful, scared, defensive, aggressive. And then some ways to mitigate the risk if -- if the dog is being aggressive toward you.

I don't remember if they covered anything else as far as, you know, response to dogs. The -- that's all I remember about that in-service.

The only other kind of things that I remember is, in SWAT school when they talk about scouting, they talk about the signs that a dog might be living in a home. So, you know, dog feces, doghouses, be aware of dog signs, fences, dog bowls, leashes, you know, the sort things to be on the lookout for when you're scouting a location that might be indicative of a dog being present.

Q. Okay. So I want to talk about the SWAT training separately in a minute. But going back to training that you've received post-academy, did you receive any training about the things you just mentioned regarding scouting separate from your training with the SWAT team?

A. I don't know if they covered that in the in-service. I also know they sent out some roll call trainings, but I don't remember the details of them.



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